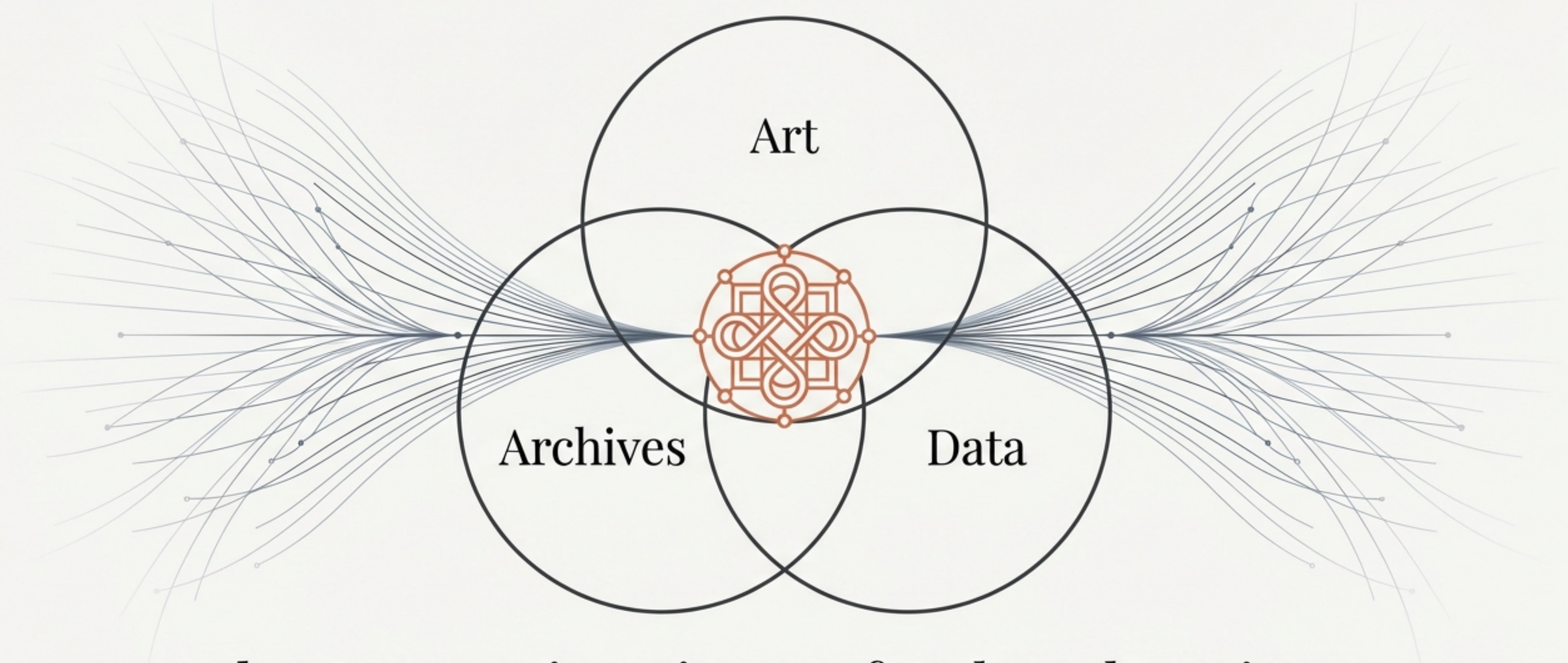


The Connective Tissue of Cultural Heritage

Unifying the world’s siloed collections into a single, navigable web of history.

Linked Art is not just a format; it is a community-driven initiative creating a shared model to describe cultural heritage. While focused on artworks, it encompasses archives and bIbliographic material, transforming isolated records into a global, interconnected ecosystem.

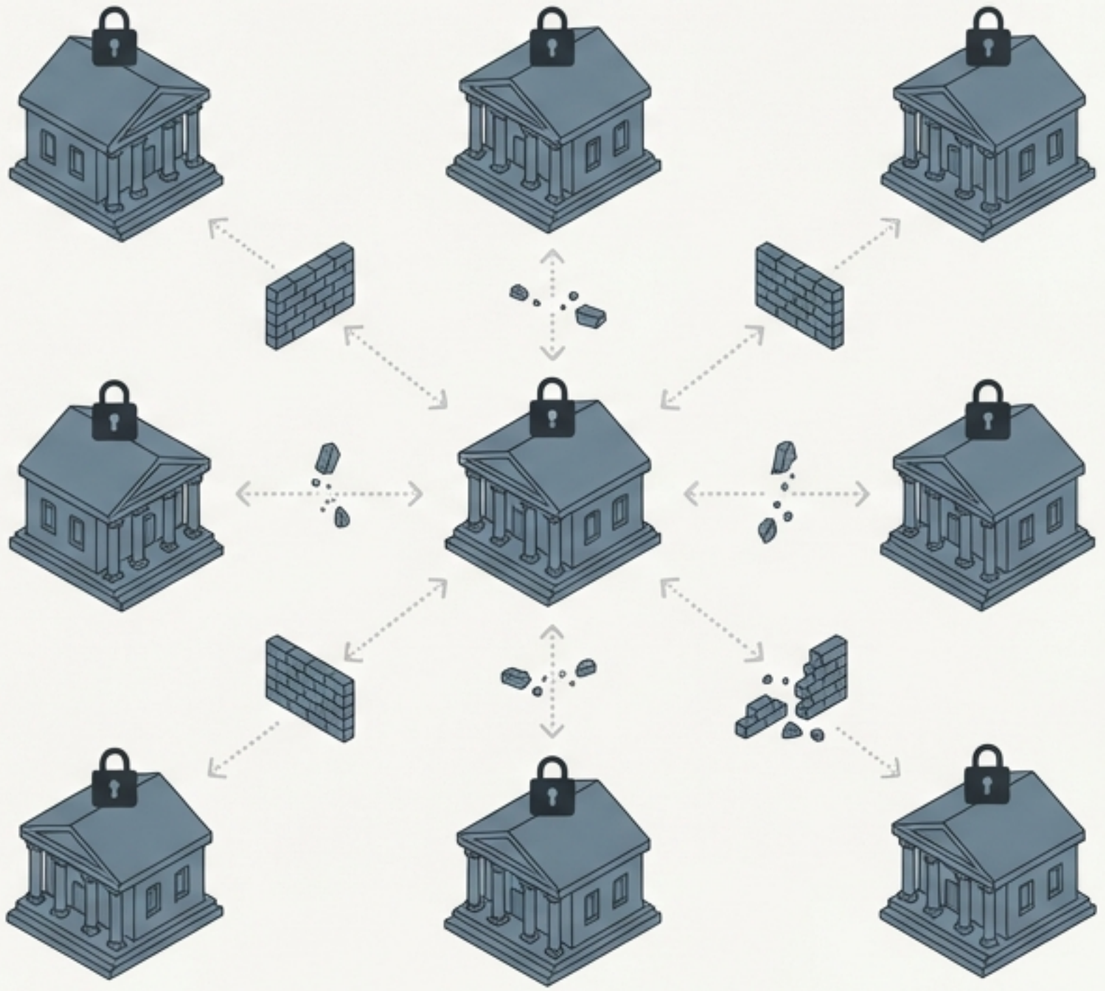
NotebookLM

The Fragmentation of History

Currently, tracking an artwork's full exhibition history requires cross-referencing ten different museum databases, each speaking a different language. Information is trapped in silos, making the discovery of contradictions, connections, and broader narratives nearly impossible.

"It's a nightmare... trying to track an artwork's full exhibition history across 10 different museum websites." — Source Transcript

The Silo Nightmare



Philosophy in Practice: Get LOUD

L

Linked

Connections between data points are explicit and machine-readable. You don't just read about an artist; you jump to their birth place, their influences, and their other works.

O

Open

Data is freely accessible, removing barriers to entry and spurring innovation outside the institution walls.

UD

Usable

The critical differentiator. The data is structured for builders, software developers, and researchers. It is not just theoretically open; it is practically designed for software implementation.

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A Mature Standard for the Future

The community has officially released Version 1.0 of the Linked Art model and API. This marks the transition from experimental modeling to a stable, implementable standard ready for global adoption.

February 19, 2025

Version 1.0 Released

- Comprehensive Data Model
- API Specifications
- Modeling Cookbook

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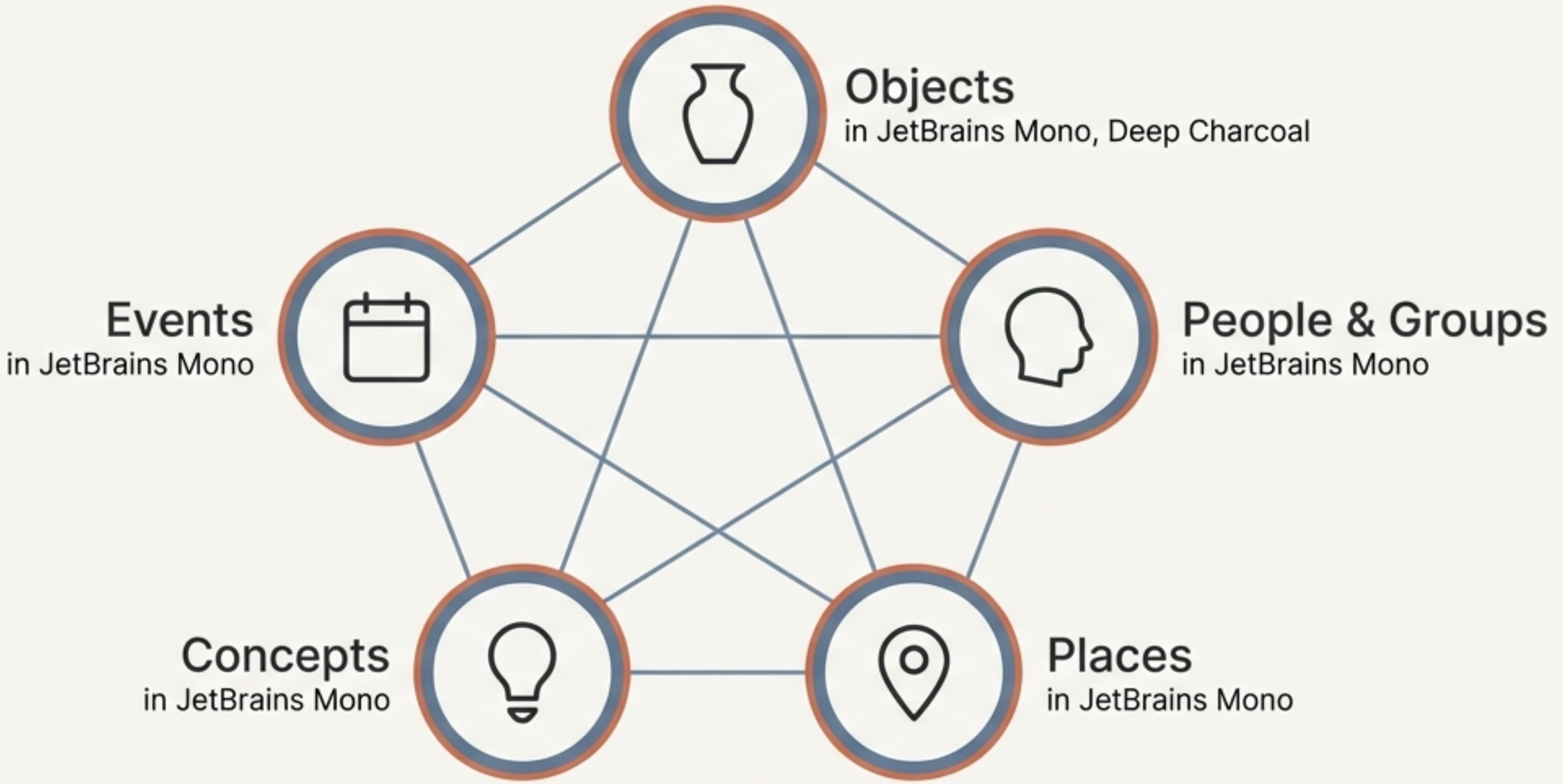
A Universal Vocabulary for Culture



The Linked Art 1.0 Model provides the semantics to describe the full spectrum of cultural heritage through these five primary entity types.

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Beyond the Museum Label

Standard metadata flattens reality. Linked Art atomizes it into granular, queryable facts.

Portrait of a Man
Oil on Canvas
1885

```
{
  'classified_as': 'Oil Painting',
  'made_of': [
    {'id': 'concept/oil', 'type': 'Material'},
    {'id': 'concept/canvas', 'type': 'Material'}
  ],
  'technique': 'concept/painted',
  'dimensions': {
    'value': 85,
    'unit': 'cm'
  }
}
```

Granular Materials

Standardized Math

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Capturing Context and Meaning

`workAboutObject`
in JetBrains Mono

Physical depiction
in Inter

`workRepresentsObject`
in JetBrains Mono

The King (Person)
in Inter

`workAboutConcept`
in JetBrains Mono

Victory (Abstract Concept)
in Inter

This structure allows researchers to query not just by artist, but by the content of the imagery itself.

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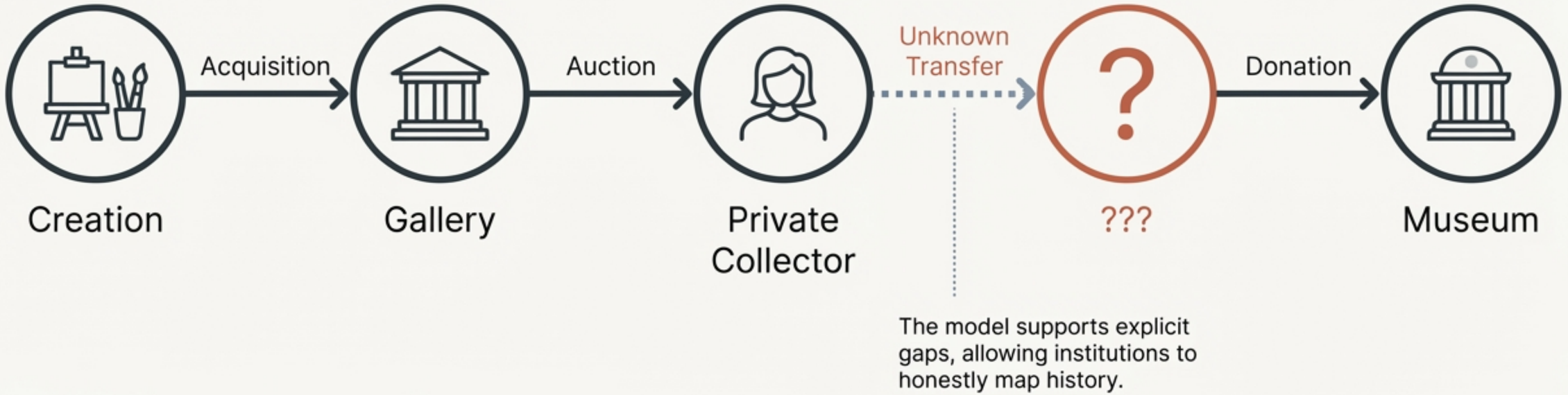
The Chain of Custody

Linked Art shines in modeling Provenance—the life story of an object, including gaps in history.



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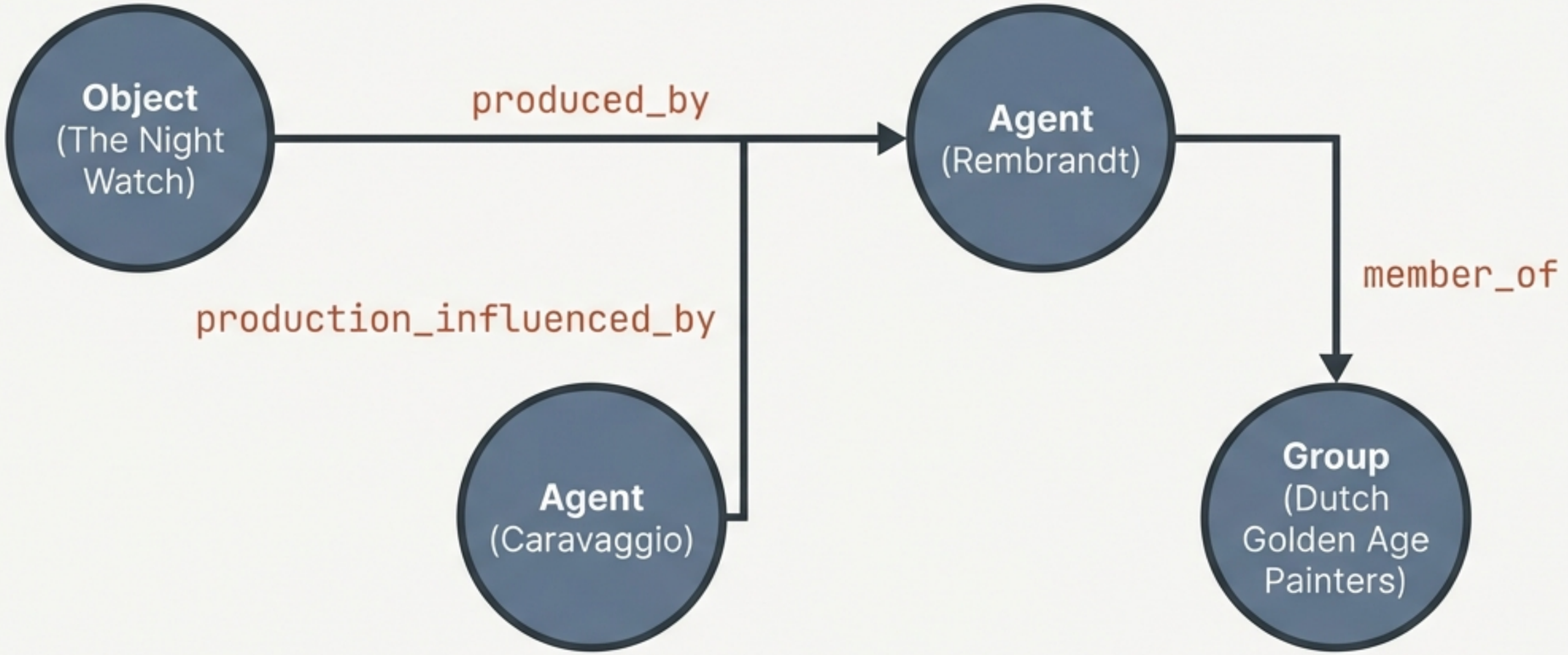
Syntax of a Knowledge Graph

Turning isolated facts into readable sentences.



Explicit, machine-readable connections allow us to traverse the graph from a painting, to its painter, to the group they belonged to.

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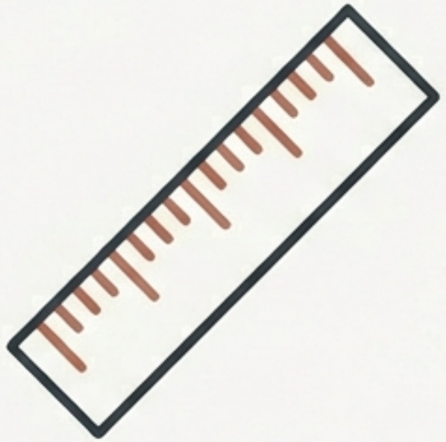
Shared Structures for Consistency

To make data truly usable across different institutions, Linked Art enforces shared structures for fundamental values.



Dimensions

Standardized measurement units (cm/in).

TimeSpans

Consistent recording of dates & eras.

Monetary Amounts

Uniform currency handling for valuations.

Also standardized: Identifiers (ULAN/TGN) and Rights Assertions.

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Usable Endpoints, Not Data Dumps

The API provides specific endpoints for targeted retrieval, making real-time integration feasible.

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Native to the Web

Web-standard syntax, readable by humans and browsers.

Built on open protocols, supported by open-source tools.

Asking Better Questions

When data is linked, we can move beyond keyword search to complex interrogation.

> Show me all Impressionist works produced in Paris by artists who died before 1900, which were later sold at auction in New York.

Logic

(Concept: Impressionism) + (Place: Paris) + (Event: Death < 1900) + (Event: Auction in Place: New York)

Results

Clsude Monet, Water Lilies, Paris, 1895. Auction: NY, 1952

Camille Plssarro, Boulevard Montmartre, Paris, 1897. Auction: NY, 1970

Degas, Ballet Rehearsal, Paris, 1895. Auction: NY, 1952

Renolr, Garden Dliior, Paris, 1895. Auction: NY, 1952

Sisley, Impressonist, Paris, 1895. Auction: NY, 1952

Cézanne, Still Lifs, Max, Paris, 1895. Auction: NY, 1952

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A Community of Builders

The Cookbook

Detailed guides on modeling complex scenarios.

The Recipes

Copy-paste patterns for common use cases.

Validation Tools

Automated checks for 1.0 profile compliance.

Linked Art is maintained by an active community of institutions and developers on GitHub.

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From Records to Stories

The ultimate goal of Linked Art is not better database management—it is better storytelling. By connecting the world's cultural heritage, we empower the public to explore history not as a series of isolated items, but as a dynamic, interconnected web of human creativity.

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